

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **RANDALL J. WILGER TO HEAD VOLUNTEER EFFORT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN**

LANSING, MI, September 27, 2004 – Randall J. Wilger, a former volunteer member of the Foster Care Review Board, has been named Special Assistant on Volunteerism to Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan.

His responsibilities, Corrigan said, will include “finding ways to channel private good will for the benefit of Michigan’s foster children, particularly those who have little chance of being adopted.” She said Wilger “is the right choice for a job that demands untiring advocacy on behalf of Michigan’s foster children.”

Wilger said he is organizing a program, called Children’s Community Support Network (CCSN), to help children and young adults who are or were court wards become productive and responsible adults by providing them with a network of community support.

“There is a misperception that the only way to help foster children is to adopt them, which many people are not able or willing to do,” Wilger said. “We have a great, untapped resource in people who want to help foster children in other ways, whether by mentoring or financial support, or by providing respite care to help foster and adoptive parents. CCSN’s goal is linking those people of good will with volunteer opportunities.”

Wilger added that volunteer support is critical, especially for older foster children. “As a matter of statistics, after age 11, a child’s chances of being adopted are very slim,” he said. “Many of these young people will simply ‘age out’ of the foster system and will be on their own by age 18 or 19 without a family or support network. Our goal is to put these children and youth in touch with those who can help them, including potential mentors. Everyone has something they can teach a foster child, whether it’s how to look for a job or even grocery shop.”

Details of the CCSN program will be formally announced on Michigan Adoption Day later this fall. Those interested in volunteer opportunities and other information may contact Wilger at [ccsn@courts.mi.gov](mailto:ccsn@courts.mi.gov).

Wilger, who recently retired as Director of Business and Finance for Wayne State University Law School, received his undergraduate degree in business administration from Wayne State University. He also holds a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Michigan.

In March, Corrigan honored Wilger with a Supreme Court resolution for his 12 years of service on the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB), which is comprised of volunteer panels of private citizens who review cases of children in foster care. Wilger served as chairman of the FCRB's Advisory Committee from 1998 to 2004.

Wilger and his wife Kristine reside in Livonia.

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